

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting Friday August 7, 1998

IN THIS ISSUE:

Field Day

ARRL asks FCC to DENY LMCC 70cm Grab

More on the 70cm Flap

From APCO; AAA Admonished more LMCC

League Rallies Hams against 70-cm Threat

FCC to tighten scanner rules

Feingold CB Bill Passes in Senate as part of "Anti-Slamming Act"

FCC asks Germany to Silence broadcaster on 3945 KHz

Propagation Report

Senate looks at Wireless Bureau

Fund for Ian Varley aid established

ICOM IC-706mkII giveaway

FCC official promises more enforcement of rules

And Much More

Officers

President	Peter Bailey WL7BW
Vice President	Paul Spatzek WL7BF
Secretary	Susan Woods NL7NN
Treasurer	John Lawson NL7NC
Trustee	John Wolfe AA0NN
Activities Chairman	John Lynn KL0CY
News Letter Editor	Edythe Lynn KL0EO
Membership Chairman	Fred Erickson KL7VC
Past President	Rob Wilson AL7KK

Three Year Board Members

Bruce McCormick WL7YR
Mel Saunders AL7PB
Harvey Rookus NL7DK

One Year Board Members

Dianne Hammer NL7KN
Fred Erickson KL7VC
John Orella KL7LL
Richard O'Connor WL7CPG
Dave Filley WL7CDJ

WEB PAGES:

AARC <http://kl7aa.akconnect.com>
Email to kl7aa@akconnect.com
SCRC <http://www.servcom.com/worcester/scrc.htm>
EARS <http://ww2.customcpu.com/kl7air/default.htm>
KL7J <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>
Solar Terrestrial Activity <http://209.130.27.95/solar/>
Propagation Report Recording 566-1819
please let us know if there are other club pages or good starting points that should appear here

News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Must be received 2 wks before meeting

Email: johnlynn@gsi.net Facsimile: 907-338-4791

Mail: 7013 Trafford Ave. Anchorage 99504

KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm
AK time, every day

Frequencies: 3575 KHz and 145.35 MHz

Sending Speeds: 22 wpm, 15 wpm, 7 wpm

Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:

Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 1900 UTC daily

Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 2000 UTC daily

Alaska Motley Net 3.933 Mhz 2100 UTC daily

Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net 14.292 MHz 8:30 AM M-F

QCWA net 146.97/.37 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM local

850 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM

Son of Sideband Net 144.20 USB Mondays 9:00 PM local

Big City Simplex Net 146.520 FM Tuesdays 8:00 PM local

ARES net 147.30/.90 Mhz Thursdays at 8:00 PM local

PARKA net 147.30/.90 Mhz Thursdays at 9:00 PM local

Anchorage Area Repeaters

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft

146.34/94 Mhz, 80 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 Hz PL

223.34/224.94, 25 watts, no patch, no PL

444.70/449.70, 25 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 PL

KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon 4,700 ft

147.30/90 Mhz - 80 watts, no patch, no PL

KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft.

146.16/76 Mhz, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC club

146.97/.37 Mhz, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL

KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft.

147.09/.69 Mhz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL

444.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

KL7JFU, Palmer, MARA club

146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL

KL7AIR Elmendorf, EARS

147.27/.87 no patch, 107.2 Hz PL



27th Annual Anchorage

Ham-Fest

and personal electronics Swap Meet

Saturday & Sunday, September 19 & 20
Kincade Park Outdoor Center

From the corner of Jewel Lake and Rasberry Road, go WEST on Rasberry all the way to the end.

Featuring Gordon West, WB6NOA

Nationally known author, trainer, and entertainer

- Ham license exams
- Commercial license exams
- Forums with reps from ICOM, Kenwood, & Yaesu
- Banquet
- Door Prizes
- New ham gear
- Laptop computer
- Mini-auctions
- UHF Amateur TV demo

For more information, Call Rob Wilson at 248-0976



Ham-Fest '98: World class training and inspiration



Gordon West, WB6NOA, nationally acclaimed author of ham training aids will again be the featured speaker at Ham-Fest sessions on Saturday in the afternoon and at the banquet.

Gordon West has been a ham for more than 35 years, holding an Extra Class license, call sign WB6NOA. Gordon also holds the highest Federal Communications Commission commercial radio telephone operator license, the First Class General Radiotelephone Certificate with radar endorsement. He is a fellow of the Radio Club of America, as well as a life member of the American radio Relay League.

Gordon has been on the staff of Coastline College and Orange Coast College in Southern California. He teaches evening ham radio classes and offers weekend ham radio licensing seminars on a monthly schedule, both in Southern California and across the USA. These licensing seminars

cover entry-level and upgrade licenses in ham radio, as well as marine electronics.

The American Radio relay League presented Gordon with its "Instructor of the Year" award. Through his own organization, Gordon West Radio School, Inc., he has trained eight out of ten newly-licensed hams with his classes, books, and tapes over the past 30 years.

We are honored to have Gordon attend and contribute to the Ham-Fest.



At last year's banquet, he used food to illustrate the behavior of electricity. With the assistance of Lil Marvin and encouragement of Rob Wilson, he connected wires to the pickles. As everyone could plainly see (and hear, and smell), pickles in parallel have less resistance than pickles in series.

Eyeing a new radio or accessory?

Get it at the Ham-Fest! Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) is bringing a ton of new equipment for purchase at lower 48 sale prices.

ICOM

Qty	Model	Description
2	IC-706 Mark II	Mini HF/6m/2m xcvr/SW rcvr
3	IC-MB62	Mounting bracket for main unit
3	IC-MB63	Mounting bracket for control panel
3	IC-OPC-581	11.5' separation cable
3	IC-746	Xcvr/Rcvr/HF/6m/2m/IFDSP/tuner/mic
1	IC-756	Xcvr/Rcvr/HF/6m/IF-DSP/tuner/keyer
2	IC-SM20	Deluxe desk microphone
2	IC-707	100w HF xcvr w/ mic
1	IC-821H	2m/440 SSB/FM sat Xcvr/9600/mic
2	IC-AT180	HF-6m external auto antenna tuner
2	IC-AH4	80-6m 120w auto antenna tuner
3	IC-PS85	13.8V 20A switching power supply
3	IC-UT106	Plug-in DSP unit for IC-706 Mk II only
5	IC-2100H	2m 55w 113 mem 2-color display xcvr
2	IC-2710H	2m mobile xcvr w/ backlit TTP mic
3	IC-207H	2m/440 FM mobile xcvr w/ TTP mic
2	IC-R10	.5-1300MHz HandHeld receiver
3	IC-W32A	5w 2m/440 FM HT/batt/chgr/TTP/tone
3	IC-T22	2m FM HT/batt/chgr/TTP
2	IC-T8A/HP	5w 6m/2m/440 HT/BP200/chgr/TTP
5	IC-CP12	Cigarette cable charger w/ filter
5	IC-HM46	Slimline speaker/mic for all Series H
5	IC-BP170	AA battery case
5	IC-BP173	9.6V 600mAH battery
3	IC-BP200	9.6V 680mAH battery
2	IC-BP197	3 AA battery case
1	IC-SP21	External speaker
5	IC-Q7	new dual band w/ wide rx 30-1.3GHz

KENWOOD

1	TS-870S	9-band xcvr/SW rcvr/IFDSP/tuner
1	TS-570D	HF xcvr/rcvr/AFDSP/tuner/mic
1	TS570S	HF xcvr/6m/rcvr/AFDSP/tuner/mic
2	TS50S	Compact HF xcvr/SW rcvr/mic
3	PS-40	13.8V 23A switching power supply
2	AT-50	External HF auto tuner

3	MC-60A	Desk mic, 8 pin amp, up/down
2	SP-23	External speaker for TS-50/60
3	SP-50B	Deluxe external mobile speaker
3	TM-V7A	2m/440 FM xcvr/TTP mic
3	TM-261A	50w 2m FM xcvr/TTP mic
3	DFK-4C	13' remote cable kit for V7A
2	TH-G71A-HP	5w 2m/440 FM HT 200 mem
5	TH-22AT-HP	5w HT battery, KSC-8A/TTP
5	PG-3J	cig lighter cord w/ filter
5	SMC-34	Speaker/mic w/ volume control
3	BT-9	AA battery case for TH-22/42A
3	BT-11	AA battery case for TH-671A
10	VC-H1	ATV accessory for HTs

YAESU

1	FT-1000MP	9-band xcvr/EDSP/tuner/110/220
2	FT-847	HF/6m/2m/440 xcvr/mic
2	FT-100	HF/6m/2m/440 xcvr w/ DSP
1	FT-920	HF/6m xcvr AT PS PB
1	FT-840	HF xcvr/SW rcvr, 100 mem
3	MD-100ABX	Desk mic w/ tone control
2	SP-8	Ext speaker w/ filters
3	FT-8100R	2m/440 FM mobile xcvr/TTP
5	FT-2500M	2m FM mobile xcvr CTCSS TTP
5	FT-50RD-HP	2m/440 FM HT FTT
2	FT-51R-HP	2m/440 FM HT
3	FT10R/A16D-HP	5w 16 keypad 99 ch 2m HT
3	FT-11R-HP	5w 2m FM HT
5	VX-1R	2m/440 ultra compact 500mw HT
5	EDC-5B	DC adapter w/ noise filter
5	EDC-15	12VDC car adapter for VX1R
5	EDC-12	12VDC adapter for FT-51/11/41
5	MH-34B4B	Speaker/mic for FT-10/40/50
2	MH-34C2B	Speaker/mic
5	FBA-20	Battery case for VX-1R
5	FBA-15	Battery case for FT-10/40
5	FBA-14	AA battery case for FT-11/41
5	FNB-42	9.6V 1100mAH 5w battery 10/40
5	FNB-52LI	Lithium ion battery for VX-1R

OTHER

48	MH-C777	MAHA universal battery charger
50	RD 98-99	1998-99 ARRL Repeater Directory

July 1998							September 1998						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4			1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		27	28	29	30			

HAM_EVENTS

August 1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:30AM-9:00AM HAM breakfast
2 8:00PM-8:30PM QCWA net 8:00PM-9:00PM No Name net	3 9:00PM-11:00PM Son of SSB net	4 11:30AM-1:00PM HAM lunch Royal Fork 7:00PM-9:00PM EARS meeting 8:00PM-9:00PM	5 6:30PM-8:30PM VE exam @APU	6 8:00PM-9:00PM ARES net 9:00PM-10:00PM PARKA net	7 7:00PM-9:00PM AARC meeting	8 7:30AM-9:00AM HAM breakfast! 2:00PM-4:00PM VE exam Hope Cottage
		More items				
9 8:00PM-8:30PM QCWA net 8:00PM-9:00PM No Name net	10 9:00PM-11:00PM Son of SSB net	11 11:30AM-1:00PM HAM lunch Royal Fork 8:00PM-9:00PM Big City Simplex net		12 8:00PM-9:00PM ARES net 9:00PM-10:00PM PARKA net	13 7:00PM-9:00PM SCRC meeting	14 7:30AM-9:00AM HAM breakfast 11:00AM-1:00PM PARKA meeting at Peggy's
16 8:00PM-8:30PM QCWA net 8:00PM-9:00PM No Name net	17 9:00PM-11:00PM Son of SSB net	18 11:30AM-1:00PM HAM lunch Royal Fork 8:00PM-9:00PM Big City Simplex net		19 8:00PM-9:00PM ARES net 9:00PM-10:00PM PARKA net	20	21 7:30AM-9:00AM HAM breakfast
23 8:00PM-8:30PM QCWA net 8:00PM-9:00PM No Name net	24 9:00PM-11:00PM Son of SSB net	25 11:30AM-1:00PM HAM lunch Royal Fork 8:00PM-9:00PM Big City Simplex net		26 8:00PM-9:00PM ARES net 9:00PM-10:00PM PARKA net	27 7:00PM-9:00PM MARA meeting	28 7:30AM-9:00AM HAM breakfast
30 8:00PM-8:30PM QCWA net 8:00PM-9:00PM No Name net	31 9:00PM-11:00PM Son of SSB net					

This Month's Speaker

As of this publication there was no speaker scheduled.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

EVERYONE IS WELCOME: You don't need to be a member of the club to attend the meetings or any other AARC events, although we do encourage any non-member to join our group. See **THIS MONTH'S EVENTS** for the location and time for the meeting.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

VHF NETS AROUND

All of you new HAMS take note: there are lots of nets and nice folks to visit with. The Son of Sideband Net runs each Monday night at 9:00 PM local on 144.200 Mhz USB with a 6 Meter extension on 50.200 Mhz USB. On Tuesday night, the Big City Simplex Net operates on 146.520 FM at 8:00PM local. On Thursday the ARES net starts at 8:00 PM on the 147.30/.90 repeater with Amateur News line followed at 9:00 PM by the PARKA net. On Sunday there are two nets at the same time. In Anchorage, the QCWA net runs at 8:00 PM on the 146.97/.37 repeater (103.5 Hz PL) and in the valley the 850 No Name Net runs on the 146.85/.25 repeater. We are starting an informal net during the morning and evening drive times on 146.52 Simplex. All are welcome to check into what we are calling the "Stuck in Traffic Net". The object is to share traffic information, handle emergency traffic, and have a nice visit on the way to work. Net control will hand off until everyone is at work or safely home.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: All articles from members and interested persons are very welcome. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons, please have it typed or neatly handwritten. It can be submitted by computer disk, fax, or E-mail to the newsletter editor at the address listed on the cover. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

Regular HAM Gatherings:

* **Tuesdays, 11:30am to 1:00pm:** Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, Old Seward,

Saturdays, 7:30am: Here is a great way to get started on the week-end come and meet with some of the locals and have a great breakfast at Phillips Restaurant, at the corner of Arctic and International. Great Fun.

ABACUS RADIO REPAIR

Factory authorized service for: Kenwood, ICOM, Yaesu, Alinco, Amateur radio equipment.

Call Jim Wiley, KL7CC (907) 338-0662

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

August 7: AARC general meeting at 7PM Carr-Gottstein Building APU Campus. Talk in on 146.94 repeater

August 5: VE Licence Exams. 6:30pm Carr-Cottstein Building, APU Campus. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

August 8: VE License Exams. Hope Cottage Offices, 540 W. International in the Board Room. At 2pm. Be sure to bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

August 14: SCRC general meeting at 7PM RM 220, Business Ed. Bldg., UAA campus. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

FOR SALE

ICOM 2A 2-meter HT with mic. Dest battery charger w/" adapter, battery packs. Please contact Ed Maher, NL7VP 243-4348 and leave message.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

Note from the Editor

Edie Lynn, KL0EO

In this month's newsletter we received a letter from the Municipality of Anchorage, thanking all the hams that participated in the Mayor's Marathon. I would also like to thank all the many hams that participated in this great race. I would also like to take the time to thank the hams that were able to help in the Dog Jog. Even though it isn't as high profile as the Mayor's Marathon. The wonderful work that has been put in has not gone unnoticed by all. Again I would like to express my thanks to one and all.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

HAM CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 29TH

HAM CLASSES will begin **SEPTEMBER 29TH** and run **TUESDAY AND THURSDAY EVENINGS** from **6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM FOR THE FOLLOWING EIGHT WEEKS.** The location will be the **AMERICAN R' CROSS SOUTH-CENTRAL ALASKA CHAPTER BUILDING** at 235 EAST 8TH AVENUE (corner of 8th and

It is highly recommended that potential students REGISTER EARLY. Students may register by contacting John Bury KL7QZ at 349-8754 or by contacting Rick and Lil Marvin at the phone number or email listed above.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

FIELD DAY 98 A SMASHING SUCCESS!

Jim Wiley, KL7CC

Field Day 1998 was a huge success this year, with the combined SCRC/AARC effort making almost 3 times as many contacts as our best previous effort (in 1996). We made almost 1800 contacts, and netted a score of about 5500 points, far and away our best effort ever.

We were fortunate to have good band conditions, although a solar flare on Friday made things look doubtful for a while. The Ionosphere settled down by Saturday morning, and at the 10:00 AM kickoff, things were really jumping. 20 SSB and 20 CW were knocking contacts out as fast as the operators could log the calls, and we (for once) had enough operators and loggers to do justice to the efforts of the setup and technical crews. We set up a 50' tower next to the main building, and used the AARC tower/trailer rig next to Jimmy Tvrdy's (KL7CDG) motor home on the back of the lot for "station 2". TJ Sheffield, KL7TS, brought his transportable satellite array, and was making good use of it through the various OSCAR satellites. As the day wore on, we set up full size vertical antennas for both 40 and 80/75 meters, and got ready for the evening. About 9:00 PM (for 40) and 10:00 PM (for 80) the lower bands began to open, and the contacts started on those bands as well. 20 meters stayed open all night long (unlike previous years) and there was even some 15 meter activity. Simon provided yeoman services as camp cook, and was handing out burgers, hot dogs, bratwurst and whatever else came to hand at a breakneck pace. Susan and Dianne made sure the food and drinks were on time and plentiful, and various others helped where they could.

Special thanks to the setup crew for their efforts in getting the antennas and towers assembled, and everything working on schedule. The setup crew included Jimmy, KL7CDG; Kent, KL5T; Paul, WL7BF; John, KL0CY; Edie, KL0EO; John, NL7WW; Randy, AL7PJ; Len, WL7IM; Bill, KL7ITI; TJ, KL7TS; Jim, KL7CC; Clarence, NL7HF; and probably some others too.

Every one seemed to have a great time, and the weather cooperated, with no rain and no dust. The bugs were out in force, of course, but even they seemed to be willing to stay out of the building.

The Eagle River "rent-a-can" company generously donated the use of that most vital facility for the weekend, for which we thank them most profusely and special thanks to TJ for making the arrangements.

All in all, a really great time. We even had the company of some out-of-town visitor hams that stayed the whole weekend (in their motor home) and made the event even more fun.

ARRL ASKS FCC TO DENY LMCC 70 CM GRAB

ARRL Newsletter

The ARRL has asked the FCC to immediately dismiss efforts by the Land Mobile Communications Council to gain primary access to 420 to 430 Mhz and 440 to 450 Mhz as well as other UHF allocations. The LMCC recently petitioned the FCC to reallocate the two 70-cm segments from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service. Amateur Radio enjoys the use of 420 to 450 Mhz on a secondary basis. In comments filed on RM-9267, the League said the LMCC proposed the switch "without establishing technical compatibility between PMRS operation and incumbent radio services in any of the bands sought."

The League said that existing federal government use of the spectrum precludes PMRS operation at 420 to 450 Mhz. According to the ARRL, the petition fails to demonstrate any basis to withdraw the two band segments from federal use, nor any compatibility between PMRS operation and either federal government or amateur use. In addition, the League said, the petition fails to justify displacing established amateur operations. The League pointed out that the amateur community uses the band for public service and public safety functions and that hams have "substantial personal investment" in equipment that's in regular use there. The ARRL urged the Commission to throw out this portion of the LMCC petition "without further consideration." The League backed up its arguments by citing documents from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which manages federal spectrum. "NTIA has made it quite clear that there is no possibility of additional sharing of the 420-450 Mhz band, and the unique relationship between Federal radio location uses and the Amateur Service cannot be duplicated by PMRS users," the ARRL said.

The ARRL said that the LMCC petition was premature because it did not take adequate account of the benefits of spectrum reaffirming already initiated. The League suggested that PMRS users adopt available spectrum-efficient technologies to maximize their use of existing allocations before seeking additional spectrum at the expense of other users. The League also said that PMRS users should look into using the Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS).

The League's comments are available at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/RM-9267/arrl-cmt.html>

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

reallocating 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 Mhz from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service (PMRS). APCO said it otherwise supports the rest of the LMCC petition, which sought additional spectrum elsewhere. In comments filed with the FCC June 1, APCO cited "a long history of cooperation between public safety agencies and the amateur radio community, especially in coordinating disaster relief and other emergency efforts." APCO said ham radio "often provides the most effective and reliable on-scene and wide-area communications" after an emergency or disaster. Adding users to the spectrum would make it less useful for Amateur Radio, APCO said.

Meanwhile, in a letter to another LMCC member, the American Automobile Association (AAA), ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, took Triple-A to task for misinforming its membership on the issue. Sumner said letters from AAA to ARRL members who wrote about the LMCC petition mischaracterized the role of the Spectrum Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC), of which Sumner is a member, and the positions of the SPAC and NTIA. The AAA's letters to members said that SPAC, cooperating with NTIA, worked up a plan that included changes to government spectrum that is shared by amateurs. Not so, Sumner told the AAA's Gary Ruark. "I can tell you that at no time during my service on the committee has SPAC made recommendations or developed a plan such as you describe," he wrote. "Neither has the NTIA endorsed a reallocation of frequencies in the 420-450 Mhz range" as the AAA had said. The Secretary of Commerce appointed Sumner to SPAC in 1994. Sumner insisted that the AAA "correct the impression that your letter has left on those to whom it has been sent." An AAA member since 1974, Sumner said he joins those who have asked the AAA to disassociate itself from the portion of the LMCC petition affecting 420 to 450 Mhz.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

FCC TO TIGHTEN SCANNER RULES

ARRL Newsletter

The FCC plans to further tighten its rules on scanning receivers to prevent reception on cellular telephone frequencies. In a rulemaking notice released June 3, ET Docket 98-76, the FCC proposed to require receiver filtering adequate to prevent cell phone reception even when the receiver is tuned to frequencies outside the cellular telephone bands, such as an image frequency. To prevent modification of legal receivers to receive cellular frequencies, the FCC wants scanning receivers designed so that the tuning and control circuitry is "completely inaccessible," and that attempts to modify the receiver "will likely render the equipment inoperable." The proposed rules also would prohibit scanner kits.

The FCC said the proposals were in response to a petition (RM-9022) from Uniden American Corporation, which manufactures both cellular telephones and scanners.

The proposed rules would affect Amateur Radio equipment that includes scanning capability, as defined in the FCC rules. The FCC has invited comments on whether it should modify its definition of a scanning receiver to include units that can be manually tuned or which automatically switch among fewer than four frequencies. The FCC wants to require that scanners provide at least 38 dB of rejection for cell band signals at any frequency the receiver can tune. The FCC also proposes that scanners be unable to receive a signal level of 5 mV/meter or less in the cell band at any tunable frequency.

The FCC suggested covering control and tuning circuits with epoxy or some other substance, or encasing them in a non-removable metal compartment, to make them impossible to access and modify. The Commission also plans to ban the import or manufacture of scanning receiver and converter kits capable of receiving cellular frequencies. Test equipment would be exempted from the definition of a scanning receiver, however.

The FCC also proposed modifying the rules to make it clear that modification of scanning receivers on a substantial scale to receive cellular frequencies would be the same as manufacturing, which already is illegal. The FCC took the opportunity to point out that it's still illegal to modify receivers imported or manufactured prior to the effective date of the current scanning receiver rules. Those rules became effective April 26, 1994. The FCC has opened a 30-day comment window. The complete petition is available at the FCC Web site at:

http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Notices/1998/

You can view a .text version or download a WordPerfect version of this docket.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

FCC ASKS GERMANY TO SILENCE BROADCASTER ON 3945 KHz

ARRL Newsletter

Sometimes it helps to complain. The FCC's High Frequency Direction Finding Group has asked German authorities for their help in eliminating a broadcast station in Germany that's operating on 3945 KHz. Members of the ARRL Monitoring System (MONSYS) and other US hams had complained to the FCC and to the ARRL about the station's presence. Those complaints were forwarded to the FCC. The frequency is not allocated for broadcasting in Europe, which is in ITU Region 1. In Region 1, the 3900 to 3950 KHz band is authorized for aeronautical mobile operation. In the US, in Region 2, the band is allocated to amateur, fixed and mobile.

"Since this station is a source of daily harm interference to the Amateur Service, we would appreciate any assistance you could provide in eliminating the interference,"

said Chief Watch Officer/HFDF Group David Larrabee, K1BZ, in a fax June 11 to the Bundesamt fuer Post and Telecommunication (BAPT), Germany's equivalent of our FCC.

The station on 3945 KHz, identified as The Overcomer Ministry, has been monitored at several East Coast locations as well as by the FCC in Columbia, Maryland. It broadcasts on AM from Juelich, Germany.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

TIMEWAVE FILES CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY

ARRL Newsletter

Amateur Radio equipment manufacturer Timewave Technology of St Paul, Minnesota, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Timewave President Randy Gawtry, K0CBH, says Timewave plans to continue normal operations while it prepares to file a reorganization and debt payment plan with the federal bankruptcy court. "The process now is in the early stages," he said. The move comes a little more than a year after Timewave acquired rights to the AEA digital product line after AEA ran into financial trouble. Timewave is best known for its DSP filter accessories, such as the DSP-599zx.

"We're still operating and we're still doing repairs and upgrades for our DSP products," Gawtry said. "Nobody should panic."

Gawtry said the company still expects to have its new DSP-2232zx multimode TNC on the market later this year. But he conceded that under Chapter 11 bankruptcy, "any number of things can happen." The company has 60 days to file its reorganization plan, which must be approved by the court and by the company's creditors.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

Court upholds FCC against Free Radio Berkeley:

The US District Court for the Northern District of California has issued a permanent injunction against unlicensed broadcaster Stephen Dunifer, operator of Free Radio Berkeley. The 18-page decision reaffirms the FCC's authority to require broadcasters to have a license. The court enjoined Dunifer and "all persons in active concert or participation with him" from broadcasting without a license or causing or enabling unlicensed radio transmissions to occur. Dunifer had claimed the FCC's regulations were unconstitutional. FCC Chairman William Kennard applauded the decision. "The permanent injunction in the Dunifer case, and the FCC's success in the last two years in shutting down over 200 pirate stations, should send a message to all pirate broadcasters: obey the law—and join the FCC in our efforts to expand the legal uses of the public airwaves."

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

More On the 70-cm Flap

Steve Mansfield, N1MZA

You may have heard about it on your local repeater or read it on the Internet, but is it really true that the bad guys are trying to steal the 70-centimeter band (420-450 MHz) out from under the Amateur Radio Service? The answer is, "It depends upon how you look at it." Like the Little LEO flap of last year, the recent request to the FCC (RM 9267) by the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) is a serious effort on the part of heavyweight telecommunications interests to acquire more spectrum.

The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) is a non-profit association of organizations representing users of land mobile radio systems, providers of land mobile systems, and manufacturers of land mobile radio equipment. The end-user community includes a wide range of railroad, highway, trucking, petroleum, law enforcement, cellular telephone, taxicabs, and forestry interests.

The LMCC has asked the FCC to reallocate 20 MHz of the 420-450 band to the Private Mobile Radio Service (PMRS). LMCC wants to share the 420-430 MHz and 440-450 MHz segments.

This is a serious threat that the ARRL plans to fight. Indeed, how the Amateur Radio community as a whole responds may set the stage for many 21st century skirmishes over radio spectrum.

In recent years, the 70-centimeter band has become very popular among the radio amateurs, and plays a critical role in our ability to provide emergency and public service communication. In the US, Amateur Radio was originally a primary allocation, but became secondary to the military during the Cold War in the 1950s. Current military uses of the band include early missile warning and satellite tracking. Other uses include radio astronomy and wind profiler radar systems. So far, Amateur Radio has been a compatible sharing partner with these users. The LMCC proposal to reallocate primary status from the military to the PMRS says that Amateur would continue as a secondary allocation. However, it hasn't been shown that sharing with PMRS is compatible with continued amateur use of those portions of the band. Since the primary occupant of the band is military, the FCC would be required to obtain government agreement before any fundamental changes could take place.

The LMCC claims that its analysis of the future spectrum requirements of the PMRS through the year 2010 suggests another 125 MHz will need to be reallocated. The 20 MHz requested from the 70-centimeter band the first step toward meeting that goal.

When the LMCC's petition was first filed, the ARRL called upon members to file comments, and many have helped out. We will continue to track and take part in the rule-making process, which, by law, invites considerable participation by affected parties. More on the League's strategy can be found in this month's "Happenings." A fuller discussion of this issue, as well as the full text of the LMCC

petition to the FCC, can be found on the ARRL's Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/RM-9267/>.

+ + + + +

Feingold CB Bill Passes In Senate As Part of "Anti-Slamming Act"

Steve Mansfield, N1MZA

S.608, introduced by Senator Russell Feingold (D-WT) to allow municipalities to promulgate laws regulating the illegal use of CB radio, was incorporated as amendment number 2390 into S.1618, the "Consumer Anti-Slamming Act." In May, that bill passed the Senate floor by a vote of 99 to 0.

The "Anti-Slamming Act" addresses a number of telecommunications issues, most notably, the issue of slamming. Slamming is when a telephone provider switches a consumer's long distance service without the consumer's authorization. The bill also contains new provisions on telemarketing fraud, the recording and monitoring of communications with health insurers, the disclosure of charges, fees and other billing practices by telecommunications providers, and provisions related to unsolicited commercial e-mail (i.e. spamming). Rolling a number of related bills into a single piece of legislation by amendment is a common practice in both houses of Congress.

An earlier version of the Feingold legislation had been opposed by the ARRL on the grounds that it could lead to the harassment of amateurs by poorly informed local authorities who might confuse them with illegal CB operators. We also feared that the bill could permit local authorities to harass even legal CB operators, and might represent significant erosion of the principle of federal preemption of telecommunications matters. Senator Feingold's office cooperated with the ARRL to redraft the bill to specifically exclude amateur licensees. The revised bill provides an appeal mechanism for CB operators acting within the law, requires the FCC to provide technical guidance, and authorizes the FCC to reverse any improper actions local authorities might take under the bill (see "DC Currents June 1997).

Senator Feingold introduced fairly extensive remarks into the debate about his work with the ARRL. Sample:

"I have worked with the ARRL and amateur operators from Wisconsin to address these concerns. As a result of those discussions, this amendment incorporates a number of provisions suggested by the league. First, the amendment makes clear that the limited enforcement authority to localities in no way diminishes or affects FCC's exclusive jurisdiction over the regulation of radio. Second, the amendment clarifies that the possession of an FCC license to operate a radio service for the operation at issue, such as an amateur station, is complete protection against any local law enforcement action authorized by this amendment. Amateur radio enthusiasts are not only individually licensed by FCC, unlike CB operators, but they also self-regulate. The ARRL

is very involved in resolving interference concerns both among their members and between ham operators and residents experiencing problems..." (*Congressional Record*, May 12, 1998 S4693).

House leadership has given no indication how the "Anti-Slamming Act" will be treated, but it seems that it would pass with little opposition, provided there is time in the calendar for it to be taken up. As we went to press, Representative Billy Tauzin (R-LA-3rd), Chairman of the House Telecommunications Subcommittee, has introduced HR.3888, the "Anti-Slamming Amendments Act," which largely mirrors the Senate bill. It does not include any CB radio provisions, however. A measure similar to the Feingold bill has been introduced in the House by Representative Vernon Ehlers (R-MI-3rd), and could be amended into the anti-slamming bill markup. That bill is designated HR.2612. (For net surfers perusing the congressional Web page, an earlier Ehlers bill, HR.2383, contained a draft error, and was replaced by HR.2612).

+ + + + +

Senate Looks at Wireless Bureau Newsline

The Senate Communications Sub-committee has launched a series of oversight hearings to examine the performance of the Federal Communications Commission. During the first of those hearings (poorly attended by Sub-committee members) Wireless Bureau Chief Dan Phythy outlined his views on the future of wireless communication in general, and just where his bureau fits in. Phythyon told Senator Conrad Burns, who chaired the hearing, that he believes wireless services are becoming a "true substitute" for wired services as the build-out of new services continues. Phythyon called for further deregulation to help the wireless services continue to evolve. He noted, however, that certain issues are hampering the development of wireless, including local siting concerns, interconnection issues, disabled access and the continuing difficulties over compliance with the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA).

Phythyon said that the Wireless Bureau was working particularly hard to meet Congressional directives on public safety communication. He said that the bureau hopes to more than double the amount of spectrum for public safety uses, and plans to address the issue of interconnection among local, state, and federal public safety providers during emergencies. He pointed out that the Bureau also plans to expand the amount of spectrum available for private use.

"Our ongoing 'refarming' processing is designed to reduce spectrum congestion by fostering more efficient private spectrum use," Phythyon said. "In addition, as Congress directed in the 1997 budget legislation, we are considering the additional spectrum needs of private wireless services." Under later questioning from Senator Burns, Phythyon noted that the Bureau is busy working to assign the

private spectrum use." Phythyon said. "In addition, as Congress directed in the 1997 budget legislation, we are considering the additional spectrum needs of private wireless services." Under later questioning from Senator Burns, Phythyon noted that the Bureau is busy working to assign the 24 Mhz of spectrum previously allocated to the old television channels 60-69 to new public safety uses. However, he says they expect continued requests from the public safety community for new spectrum.

Senator Burns also asked Phythyon what he believes to be the biggest issues down the road, and Phythyon replied that he expects to see some wireless services begin to substitute for those previously carried over wired services, even to the point of taking the place of some common services like residential telephones. At the same time, he said, new opportunities for high speed internet, video and wireless loop services may well begin to develop, encouraged by greatly increased regulatory flexibility for both private and public service spectrum users.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

An Experiment *Sumner Weisman, W1VTV*

I conducted an experiment recently, which may be of interest to the ham community. It wasn't intended to be an experiment; I simply wanted to buy a 2-kHz optional SSB filter for my transceiver.

Looking through the most recent *QST* I found ads for 10 ham radio distributors. Six of the 10 advertisements included e-mail addresses, and the other four listed Web addresses. Going to the Web pages, I found links to their e-mail addresses.

I composed a short e-mail message, giving the part number needed and asking for price, availability, and shipping cost to my area. I sent the e-mail to each of the companies. In the past I would have telephoned each distributor, which would have been much more time consuming, so I really enjoyed doing it this way.

The results were surprising and disappointing. Of the 10 companies, only four bothered to reply to my query. One of these didn't stock the part, and other three provided the information I had requested. Of these three, one company really stood out. Within an hour of my original e-mail, I received an automated response acknowledging receipt of my query and stating that I would have my answer soon. True to their word, I received a quote within a few hours. Which company do you think received my order? Which distributors do you suppose won't get my business in the future?

I have spent the past 15 years in technical sales and marketing, and know quite a bit about the finer points of customer service. Some of these companies are wasting a good source of business. Worse yet, they've forgotten the key concept embodied in the phrase, "Always take care of the customer." Why publish your e-mail address if you refuse to respond to incoming messages?

League Rallies Hams Against 70-cm Threat

Rick Lindquist, N1RL

The ARRL organized opposition to yet another band threat this spring. The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) asked the FCC in May to immediately reallocate 420 to 430 Mhz and 440 to 450 MHz from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service (PMRS) on a primary basis.

Calling the petition, now designated as RM-9267, "incompatible with continued amateur use of the band" the League urged members to comment in opposition - not only to the FCC but to the LMCC's members. Amateur Radio enjoys the use of 70 cm on a secondary basis to government radiolocation (military radar). The 430 to 440-Mhz segment is an international allocation.

The LMCC proposed to share the two subbands with Amateur Radio but did not say how sharing would be possible. The LMCC also seeks additional UHF reallocations in the intermediate and long term.

Former FCC Private Radio Bureau Chief turned communications consultant Ralph Haller said he supports the goals of the LMCC petition. But Haller, who's N4RH, also believes tht the Private Mobile Radio Service ought to look somewhere other than the 70-cm band to satisfy its immediate spectrum needs. "If I had my druthers, I would not go after amateur spectrum, I would go after federal spectrum," he said, adding that he recently bought a dual-band mobile transceiver.

Haller said there's plenty of spectrum between 225 and 400 MHz that—to his way of thinking at least—is "not being used efficiently by the federal government." Haller's clients include two LMCC members.

The LMCC petition suggests that equipment availability and technology resulting from an expanded PMRS presence on 70 cm would benefit hams "pursuing such applications as compressed video television in the 430-440 MHz band."

The LMCC, a nonprofit association, includes several well-known organizations such as the American Automobile Association, the American Petroleum Institute, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO). APCO is a frequent Amateur Radio supporter.

For its part, the League discouraged members from complaining to members of Congress or writing angry letters to the FCC. "The LMCC petition is a private-sector initiative, *not* a government proposal," explained ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "By law, the FCC has to put the petition on public notice and invite comment. That's all the FCC has done with it."

Haller said the LMCC petition represents "a serious issue for the amateur community." While he was at the FCC, Haller got a chance to see similar circumstances firsthand during the fight for 220 MHz. "The toughest decision for the FCC are spectrum decisions," he said. The ham community needs to convince the FCC that Amateur Radio is making "the highest and best use of this band."

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

Virginia Governor Signs Statewide Ham Antenna Bill Newsline

Hams in Virginia are celebrating that state's new Amateur Radio antenna bill that limits local regulation of Amateur Radio antennas. Gov. Jim Gilmore signed the measure in April, and it became law on July 1. This brings to six the number of states that have codified PRB-1. The others are New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Washington, Wyoming and Florida.

When the Virginia bill was introduced January 26 many observers gave it little chance to success, and the measure faced fierce opposition from lobbying groups. Now, proponents hope it will serve as a model for other states.

Success followed an intense campaign by Virginia's Amateur Radio community to get the bill through the General Assembly and signed by the governor. The bill's prime mover, the aptly named Bob Ham, KK4IY, commended the bill's patron, Sen. John Edwards of Roanoke, for "an outstanding job above and far beyond the call of duty." But victory did not come without compromises.

For all areas of the state, the bill--Senate Bill 480, "Placement of Amateur Radio Antennas"--incorporates the essence of the limited federal pre-emption known as PRB-1 into the Commonwealth's statutes. It requires local ordinances involving the placement, screening, or height of antennas to impose the "minimum regulation necessary to accomplish the locality's legitimate purpose."

The original bill would have prohibited all localities from restricting antenna height to less than 200 feet above ground level. The final version keeps the 200 feet regulatory minimum in localities with a population density of fewer than 120 persons per square mile according to the 1990 US Census and provides for a 75 foot regulatory minimum height in more densely populated communities. Localities may not regulate the number of support structures in either case.

The new law would require "reasonable and customary engineering practices" be followed in erecting towers. Municipalities would still be able to set "reasonable requirements" on screening, setback, placement, and health and safety requirements.

The new Virginia law got some prominent ink in the *The Washington Post* on May 4. In an article, "Virginia Hams to Reach New Heights," writer Dan Eggen described how Virginia's new law "trumps stricter limits imposed by local governments." Eggen's article said the legislation "makes Virginia the most permissive state in the nation when it comes to Amateur Radio antennas."

The *Post* article quoted ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay W3KD, as predicting that Virginia's law will "inspire similar proposals elsewhere."

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

Ham Radio Bumped from Circus Train Newsline

A Wisconsin ham radio tradition of more than 30 years has come to an end. Ham radio has been bumped from the annual run of the Great Circus Train. The train runs each summer between Baraboo - where the Ringling Brothers Circus got its state in 1884 - and Milwaukee, the site of the annual Great Circus Parade. ARES members rode the rails to help handle communications along the route and, once in Milwaukee, at the show grounds and for the parade itself.

In a letter to Bob Goldstein, K9KJT, of Milwaukee's ARES group, the train's sponsor, the Circus World Museum, cited "severe space limitations" on the coaches for the decision to drop ham radio in favor of an offer of free commercial digital and analog service from PrimeCo. "We are attempting to eliminate as much clutter from the train coaches as possible this year and open up more space for our passengers," the museum's letter said.

Ham radio first came aboard the circus train in 1965. Wisconsin ARRL PIC Kim Romelfanger, K9ZZ - an indefatigable circus train booster - said that over the past two years, hams aboard the circus train worked an average of 225 stations during the run - and fielded circus questions at the same time. He said that without ham radio, the circus events and the museum will lose a tremendous public relations benefit that costs nothing.

Romelfanger said he was surprised, puzzled, and disappointed about the museum's decision to drop ham radio from the circus train this year, when Wisconsin marks its sesquicentennial. "It was a privilege to work for the museum, the train, and the parade," he said.

+==+==+==+==+==+==+

List of Co-sponsors Growing for Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act QXT

Representative Michael Bilirakis (R-FL-9th) introduced HR-3572. The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998, in late March. HR-3572 would amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from reallocating Amateur Radio Service bands, diminishing the secondary allocations of such bands, or making additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to the Amateur Service, unless at the same time the FCC provides equivalent replacement spectrum. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Commerce.

Municipality of Anchorage



P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650
<http://www.ci.anchorage.ak.us>

Rick Mystrom, Mayor

SPORTS AND RECREATION

July 14, 1998

Susan Woods
Alaska 49er's
P.O. Box 220054
Anchorage, AK 99522-0054

Dear Susan & Friends:

Thank you for your sponsorship of the 1998 Mayor's Midnight Sun Marathon. It was greatly appreciated that you coordinated the radio net for this years race. The success of the marathon depends greatly upon the support of volunteers and organizations like yours.

Thanks again for participating and I sincerely hope that you will consider working with us again for the 1999 Mayor's Midnight Sun Marathon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John McCleary", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

John McCleary
Race Director

cc: John Rodda

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc
Post Office Box 101987
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1987

Bulk Rate U.S. Postage PAID Anchorage, AK Permit No. 223
--

Roger Hansen KL7HFQ L036
POB 520343
Big Lake AK 99652-0343



Let's Put Alaska on the map!

taken from the July 1998 QST pages 51 to 53
a soap box special from KL0CY, John Lynn

As I read about the 1997 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test or 'SET' exercises in the July issue of QST, I was dismayed to not find Alaska results included for 1997 activities. We had banner participation in the MoA Mass Casualty Drill this year, so I want to see the south-central and hopefully the entire Alaska HAM community participate in the SET for 1998. We can incorporate the lessons learned from the Mass Casualty Drill, and have a chance to better ourselves. We can work with the other clubs around the state. We can exercise our relationships with the State and Municipal agencies, get new HAMs involved and get additional points. The SET drill will be October 3 and 4 of 1998, a Saturday & Sunday. Ask your club activities coordinator about SET! Get involved! Remember the (1964) earthquake? Have you felt the warm-up earthquakes lately? Do you follow the news? Well then, get involved!

73 John
on the ARES net Thursday at 8PM,
email johnlynn@gci.net,
or Anchorage telephone 337-1091